

Books for Fifth Graders

* and more in the series

Alexander, Lloyd	Book of Three* Prydain Chronicles, Bk 1 of 5. In the land of Prydain, the pig-keeper Taran embarks upon an adventure with a group of unusual friends to battle the forces of evil.
Appelt, Kathi	True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp The swamp is threatened by developers, and an unlikely crew of characters sets out to save it in this comical tall tale.
Bacon, Lee	Joshua Dread* Middle school bullies are the least of Joshua's problems--he has to keep secret that he is the son of the Dread Duo, supervillains out to destroy the world.
Balliett, Blue	Chasing Vermeer* A series of strange events and the disappearance of a precious Vermeer painting inspires eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder to solve the mystery.
Birdsall, Jeanne	Penderwicks* While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy.
Brink, Carol	Caddie Woodlawn Eleven-year-old Caddie refuses to be a "lady," preferring instead to run with her brothers. Her adventures give a picture of life on the Wisconsin frontier in the 1860s.
Buyea, Rob	Because of Mr. Terupt* Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed by their unconventional teacher, Mr. Terupt.
Clements, Andrew	Landry News Fifth-grader Cara Landry has Mr. Larson, the worst teacher in the school. So Cara, an aspiring journalist, uses the power of the press to launch a protest.
Curtis, Christopher P.	Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963 Ten-year-old Ken recounts how his family, the "Weird Watsons" of Flint, Michigan, head south to visit their Grandma in the summer of 1963.
Erdrich, Louise	Birchbark House* The first of four books about a lively, young Ojibwa girl and her family, who live on an island in Lake Superior. The year is 1847, and settlers are moving into the area.
Fleischman, Sid	Giant Rat of Sumatra: Or, Pirates Galore A cabin boy on a swashbuckling pirate ship finds himself in San Diego in 1846 as war breaks out between the United States and Mexico.
Funke, Cornelia	Ghost Knight At his boarding school, 11-year-old Jon is haunted by ghost riders out to punish him for deeds that happened long ago. Perhaps the ghost of Sir William Longspee can help.
Giff, Patricia Reilly	Hunter Moran Saves the Universe* Fifth-grader Hunter describes the crazy goings-on in his small town one summer, as he and his twin brother unleash a series of chaotic events.
Grabenstein, Chris	Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library Kyle and 11 other kids are locked overnight in the new town library, and they must work to solve a series of secret puzzles in order to escape.
Grimes, Nikki	Words with Wings Gabby, a daydreamer, copes with her parents' separation and the challenge of a new school. A teacher helps her turn her daydreams into writing that soars.
Gutman, Dan	The Homework Machine* When fifth-grader Brenton builds a homework machine, he and his three friends delight in using it, but soon things start to get out of control.
Jacques, Brian	Redwall* Only the lost sword of Martin the Warrior can save Redwall Abbey from the evil rat Cluny and his greedy horde. The young mouse Matthias sets out on the quest.

Juster, Norton	<i>Phantom Tollbooth</i> This classic fantasy chronicles Milo's adventures in the Lands Beyond with his "watch dog" Tock. Chock full of imaginative wordplay and puzzles.
Klise, Kate	<i>Regarding the Fountain: A Tale, in Letters, of Liars and Leaks*</i> A 5 th -grade class's design for a spectacular water fountain unleashes a chain of events. Humor and intrigue abound.
Konigsburg, E. L.	<i>From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i> Claudia and her younger brother Jamie run away—and take up residence in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.
Lin, Grace	<i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*</i> Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish and joins a dragon on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon.
Lord, Bette Bao	<i>In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson</i> In 1947, a young Chinese girl works to learn English and make friends at her new school in New York City, with some help from baseball.
Lowry, Lois	<i>Number the Stars</i> During the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie's bravery is tested when she helps shelter her Jewish friend Ellen from the Nazis.
Lupica, Mike	<i>Game Changers*</i> Eleven-year-old Ben McBain is small for his age, but he knows he has what it takes to be a great quarterback, if the coach will give him the chance. Exciting football action.
Messner, Kate	<i>Capture the Flag</i> Three kids join forces to find the "Star Spangled Banner," a valuable flag that has mysteriously disappeared from a super-secure vault at the Smithsonian.
Naylor, Phyllis R.	<i>Shiloh*</i> When young Marty finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, he tries to hide it from his family and its true owner, a mean-spirited man who mistreats his dogs.
O'Brien, Robert	<i>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh</i> An inquisitive mouse becomes involved in an intrigue when she seeks help from intelligent rats who live in a strange laboratory.
Park, Linda Sue	<i>A Single Shard</i> Tree-ear, an orphan living in medieval Korea, dreams of becoming a master potter. He undertakes a difficult journey to bring his master's finest pottery to the royal court.
Paterson, Katherine	<i>Great Gilly Hopkins</i> Finding herself in the latest of a string of foster homes, a rebellious 11-year-old tries to provoke the adults around her.
Ryan, Pam Munoz	<i>Paint the Wind</i> After her grandmother's death, 11-year-old Maya begins a new life with relatives in Wyoming, where she develops a kinship with a wild horse.
Scieszka, Jon	<i>Spaceheadz # 1*</i> SPHDZ series On his first day at a new school, fifth-grader Michael K. is teamed with two very strange students, who seem to be space aliens needing his help.
Stevenson, Robert L.	<i>Treasure Island</i> In this classic tale, young Jim Hawkins finds a treasure map showing the location of a pirate fortune. But a band of ruthless pirates is after the treasure as well.
Turnage, Sheila	<i>Three Times Lucky</i> Eleven-year-old Mo LoBeau and her best friend Dale turn detective, after a lawman comes to their small, North Carolina town asking about a murder.
Williams-Garcia, Rita	<i>One Crazy Summer*</i> In the summer of 1968, 11-year-old Delphine and her two sisters travel to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the "crazy" mother they barely know.
Wrede, Patricia	<i>Dealing with Dragons*</i> Enchanted Forest Chronicles, Bk 1 Cimorene is everything a princess is <i>not</i> supposed to be: headstrong, smart . . . and bored. So she runs away to live with a dragon.